

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3714

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make certain changes to hospice care under the Medicare program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 1996

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. JACOBS, and Mr. McNULTY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make certain changes to hospice care under the Medicare program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Medicare Hospice Ben-
5 efit Amendments of 1996”.

6 **SEC. 2. HOSPICE CARE BENEFIT PERIODS.**

7 (a) RESTRUCTURING OF BENEFIT PERIOD.—Section
8 1812 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395d) is

1 amended in subsections (a)(4) and (d)(1), by striking “,
2 a subsequent period of 30 days, and a subsequent exten-
3 sion period” and inserting “and an unlimited number of
4 subsequent periods of 60 days each”.

5 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(1) Section 1812
6 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395d) is amended in subsection
7 (d)(2)(B) by striking “90- or 30-day period or a subse-
8 quent extension period” and inserting “90-day period or
9 a subsequent 60-day period”.

10 (2) Section 1814(a)(7)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
11 1395f(a)(7)(A)) is amended—

12 (A) in clause (i), by inserting “and” at the end;

13 (B) in clause (ii)—

14 (i) by striking “30-day” and inserting “60-
15 day”; and

16 (ii) by striking “and” at the end and in-
17 serting a period; and

18 (C) by striking clause (iii).

19 **SEC. 3. AMBULANCE SERVICES, DIAGNOSTIC TESTS, CHEM-**
20 **OTHERAPY SERVICES, AND RADIATION THER-**
21 **APY SERVICES INCLUDED IN HOSPICE CARE.**

22 Section 1861(dd)(1) of the Social Security Act (42
23 U.S.C. 1395x(dd)(1)) is amended—

1 (1) in subparagraph (E), by inserting
2 “anticancer chemotherapeutic agents and other” be-
3 fore “drugs”;

4 (2) in subparagraph (G), by striking “and” at
5 the end;

6 (3) in subparagraph (H), by striking the period
7 at the end and inserting a comma; and

8 (4) by inserting after subparagraph (H) the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(I) ambulance services,

11 “(J) diagnostic tests, and

12 “(K) radiation therapy services.”.

13 **SEC. 4. CONTRACTING WITH INDEPENDENT PHYSICIANS**
14 **OR PHYSICIAN GROUPS FOR HOSPICE CARE**
15 **SERVICES PERMITTED.**

16 Section 1861(dd)(2) of the Social Security Act (42
17 U.S.C. 1395x(dd)(2)) is amended—

18 (1) in subparagraph (A)(ii)(I), by striking
19 “(F),”; and

20 (2) in subparagraph (B)(i), by inserting “or
21 under contract with” after “employed by”.

1 **SEC. 5. WAIVER OF CERTAIN STAFFING REQUIREMENTS**
2 **FOR HOSPICE CARE PROGRAMS IN NON-UR-**
3 **BANIZED AREAS.**

4 Section 1861(dd)(5) of the Social Security Act (42
5 U.S.C. 1395x(dd)(5)) is amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “or (C)”
7 after “subparagraph (A)” each place it appears; and
8 (2) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(C) The Secretary may waive the requirements of
10 paragraph (2)(A)(i) and (2)(A)(ii) for an agency or orga-
11 nization with respect to the services described in para-
12 graph (1)(B) and, with respect to dietary counseling,
13 paragraph (1)(H), if such agency or organization—

14 “(i) is located in an area which is not an urban-
15 ized area (as defined by the Bureau of Census), and

16 “(ii) demonstrates to the satisfaction of the
17 Secretary that the agency or organization has been
18 unable, despite diligent efforts, to recruit appro-
19 priate personnel.”.

20 **SEC. 6. LIMITATION ON LIABILITY OF BENEFICIARIES AND**
21 **PROVIDERS FOR CERTAIN HOSPICE COV-**
22 **ERAGE DENIALS.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1879(g) of the Social Se-
24 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395pp(g)) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as
2 subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and mov-
3 ing such subparagraphs 2 ems to the right;

4 (2) by striking “is,” and inserting “is—”;

5 (3) by making the remaining text of subsection
6 (g), as amended, that follows “is—” a new para-
7 graph (1) and indenting such paragraph 2 ems to
8 the right;

9 (4) by striking the period at the end and insert-
10 ing “; and”; and

11 (5) by adding at the end the following new
12 paragraph:

13 “(2) with respect to the provision of hospice
14 care to an individual, a determination that the indi-
15 vidual is not terminally ill.”.

16 (b) WAIVER PERIOD EXTENDED.—Section
17 9305(f)(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of
18 1986 is amended by striking “and before December 31,
19 1995.”.

20 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
21 this section take effect December 31, 1995.

1 **SEC. 7. EXTENDING THE PERIOD FOR PHYSICIAN CERTIFI-**
2 **CATION OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S TERMINAL ILL-**
3 **NESS.**

4 Section 1814(a)(7)(A)(i)(II) of the Social Security
5 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395f(a)(7)(A)(i)(II)) is amended by strik-
6 ing “, not later than 2 days after hospice care is initiated
7 (or, if each certify verbally not later than 2 days after
8 hospice care is initiated, not later than 8 days after such
9 care is initiated),” and inserting “at the beginning of the
10 period”.

11 **SEC. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

12 Except as provided in section 6(c), the amendments
13 made by this Act apply to benefits provided on or after
14 the date of the enactment of this Act, regardless of wheth-
15 er or not an individual has made an election under section
16 1812(d) of the Social Security Act before such date.

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